IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-4, 9-17, 19-23, and 41-61 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~facilitating the administration of~~ administering a subsidiary account, the method being performed by a computer and comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a parent system, a request ~~from a parent for~~ to establish a subsidiary account, ~~said parent identifying a parent account, said parent account being a financial account~~ associated with [[the]] a ~~parent, the~~ parent account ~~having a parent spending power~~;

~~establishing a subsidiary account having a subsidiary spending capacity;~~

defining a subsidiary account spending capacity based on a currency of a first country;

determining an exchange rate corresponding to the currency of the first country and a currency of a second country distinct from the first country;

determining, by the parent system, an effective time period associated with the exchange rate; and

storing, in a database, a subsidiary account identifier, the exchange rate, and the effective time period, wherein purchases made using the subsidiary account are limited by the subsidiary account spending capacity, and wherein, during the effective time period, purchases made using the subsidiary account in the currency of the second country are converted into the currency of the first country according to the exchange rate

~~reducing said parent spending power by an amount less than said subsidiary spending capacity;~~

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~~wherein said parent account is established by a first institution and said subsidiary~~ ~~account is at least partially maintained by a second institution~~.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein <u>the parent account is</u> <u>established by a first institution and the</u> [[said]] subsidiary account is <u>at least partially</u> [[fully]] maintained by [[said]] <u>a</u> second institution.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] <u>2</u>, wherein [[said]] <u>the</u> second institution is situated in a location remote from [[said]] <u>the</u> first institution.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] <u>2</u>, wherein [[said]] <u>the</u> second institution is situated in a country that is different from the country of [[said]] <u>the</u> first ~~financial~~ institution.

5. – 8. (Canceled)

9.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of modifying [[said]] <u>the</u> subsidiary <u>account</u> spending capacity in response to a request from [[said]] <u>the</u> parent <u>system</u>.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of modifying [[said]] <u>a</u> parent spending power based on a modification of the subsidiary <u>account</u> spending capacity.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining a parent account spending power for the parent account and [[a]] the subsidiary account spending capacity for the subsidiary account in accordance with a predetermined set of rules.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of tracking [[the]] spending incurred using [[of a]] the subsidiary account.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of limiting total spending facilitated by a incurred using the subsidiary account.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of limiting spending incurred using the subsidiary account for a specific class of goods or services facilitated by a subsidiary account.

15.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of limiting spending incurred using the subsidiary account at a specific class of merchants facilitated by a subsidiary account.

16.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of limiting spending incurred using the subsidiary account at a specific merchant facilitated by a subsidiary account.

17.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of enforcing specific restrictions against [[a]] the subsidiary account, wherein the specific restrictions ~~exist to~~ condition the use of the parent account.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of accommodating an emergency transaction.

19.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a statement for [[a]] the subsidiary account.

20.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a statement for [[a]] the parent account.

21.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of terminating [[said]] the subsidiary account in response to a request from [[said]] the parent system.

22.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the subsidiary account is configured to carry-over spending capacity from one cycle to the next.

23.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [[said]] the subsidiary account is configured to prevent carry-over of spending capacity from one cycle to the next.

24. – 40. (Canceled)

41.   (Currently Amended) A [[The]] system for administering a subsidiary account, the system of claim 1, further comprising:

a server configured to:

receive, from a parent system, a request to establish a subsidiary account associated with a parent account,

define a subsidiary account spending capacity based on a currency of a first country,

determine an exchange rate corresponding to the currency of the first country and a currency of a second country distinct from the first country,

receive, from the parent system, an effective time period associated with the exchange rate; and

a database configured to store a subsidiary account identifier, the exchange rate, and the effective time period, wherein purchases made using the subsidiary account are limited by the subsidiary account spending capacity, and wherein, during the effective time period, purchases made using the subsidiary account in the currency of the second country are converted into the currency of the first country according to the exchange rate

a merchant system at least a portion of which is located domestically, said merchant system including a merchant server, said merchant server configured to receive at least one of an account number and a transaction request;

a customer interface configured to provide said account number to said domestic merchant server; and

a foreign financial institution system configured to communicate with said merchant server.

42.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 41, further comprising:

a merchant system including:

a merchant server configured to receive at least one of an account number and a transaction request, wherein said merchant system further includes and

a merchant point of sale (POS) device configured to communicate with [[said]] a customer interface and [[said]] the merchant server, [[said]] the POS device configured to receive [[said]] an account number and provide [[said]] the account number and [[a]] the transaction request to [[said]] the merchant server;

the customer interface for inputting the account number to the merchant server; and

a financial institution system configured to communicate with the merchant server.

43.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 41, wherein [[said]] the subsidiary account is reloadable.

44.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 41, wherein [[said]] the subsidiary account is fully maintained by [[a]] one of a domestic and foreign financial institution.

45.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 42, wherein [[said]] the foreign financial institution system further includes a financial institution server configured to communicate with [[said]] the merchant server.

46.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 45, wherein ~~said foreign~~ the financial institution system further includes a financial institution database configured to communicate with [[said]] the financial institution server, [[said]] the financial institution database including a plurality of distinct subsidiary account storage locations wherein at least one of [[said]] the plurality of distinct subsidiary account storage locations stores a unique subsidiary card number, [[said]] the unique subsidiary card number corresponding to [[said]] the subsidiary account number.

47.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 46, wherein [[said]] the subsidiary account number further includes a unique transaction routing code, said routing code corresponding to ~~said foreign~~ the financial institution system.

48.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 47, wherein [[said]] the financial institution system is located in a foreign country, wherein the merchant server provides [[said]] the subsidiary account number and [[said]] the transaction request to [[said]] the financial institution server, in accordance with at least one of [[said]] an account domestic payment network system code and [[said]] the unique transaction routing code.

49.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 48, wherein ~~said foreign~~ the financial institution server is configured to match [[said]] the account number to [[said]] a corresponding one of [[said]] the plurality of subsidiary card numbers, ~~said foreign~~ the financial institution server further configured to retrieve [[said]] the corresponding subsidiary card number

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in response to [[said]] the transaction request, [[said]] the subsidiary card number including subsidiary account information.

50.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 49, wherein [[said]] the subsidiary card number is characterized by a predetermined monetary value.

51.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 50, wherein ~~said foreign~~ the financial institution server is configured to compare [[said]] the transaction request to [[said]] the predetermined monetary value, and provide to [[said]] the merchant system at least one of a transaction authorized or transaction denied message, [[said]] the transaction authorized message being provided where [[said]] the transaction request is less than or equal to [[said]] the predetermined monetary value, [[said]] the transaction denied message being provided where [[said]] the transaction request is more than [[said]] the predetermined monetary value.

52.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 51, wherein [[said]] the financial institution is characterized by a financial institution domestic payment network system code, [[said]] the financial institution domestic payment network system code corresponding to [[said]] the account domestic payment network system code.

53.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 52, wherein [[said]] the financial institution server is configured to provide a monetary amount to [[said]] the merchant server in response to [[said]] the transaction request.

54.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 53, wherein [[said]] the financial institution server is configured to provide [[said]] the monetary amount in accordance with existing monetary exchange rates.

55.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 54, wherein [[said]] the subsidiary card number is characterized by an expiration date, and [[said]] the transaction request is characterized by a transaction request date.

56.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 55, wherein [[said]] the merchant system server provides [[said]] the transaction request date to [[said]] the financial institution system server.

57.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 56, wherein [[said]] the financial institution server is configured to compare [[said]] the transaction request date to [[said]] the expiration date, [[said]] the merchant server further configured to return a transaction denied message where [[said]] the transaction date occurs later in time than [[said]] the expiration date.

58.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 57, wherein the parent system is further including a sponsor configured to communicate with [[said]] the financial institution system server, said sponsor configured and to provide [[said]] the predetermined monetary value to [[said]] the financial institution for establishing [[said]] the subsidiary account spending limit, [[said]] the subsidiary account spending limit corresponding to [[said]] the predetermined

monetary amount, [[said]] the predetermined monetary value provided in a currency capable of being processed by [[said]] the financial institution system.

59.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 58, wherein [[said]] the financial institution server is configured to reload [[said]] the subsidiary account spending limit in response to [[said]] the provided predetermined monetary value.

60.   (Currently Amended) [[A]] The system according to claim 59, wherein ~~said sponsor~~ the parent system is configured to provide an updated expiration date to [[said]] the financial institution server, [[said]] the updated expiration date corresponding to at least one of [[said]] the subsidiary card numbers, [[said]] the updated expiration date configured to replace [[said]] the subsidiary card expiration date correlating to [[said]] the one of [[said]] the subsidiary accounts.

61.   (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 60, wherein [[said]] the financial institution server is configured to provide a portion of [[said]] the predetermined monetary value to ~~said sponsor~~ the parent system at [[said]] the expiration date, [[said]] the portion of [[said]] the predetermined value being provided in the currency of the country of at least one of ~~said foreign~~ the financial institution and ~~said sponsor~~ the parent system.